

I think the younger the child the more the teacher should be paid. I would tell you why I feel this way. I think the responsibility of a teacher to a very young growing developing child is extremely important. She is not just a teacher to this 4-year-old.

Mrs. GREEN. Yes. I completely agree with you. I would certainly not differentiate between what the teacher of the 4-year-olds should be paid and what the teacher of the 5-year-olds should be paid.

I understand what you are saying. We, for a number of years in this country, have been under the false assumption that if they teach the youngsters we pay them the least. I disagree with that entirely too. I am talking about a program that makes sense from an educational standpoint. The question here, one of the main questions, that this committee has to decide on Headstart is not at all whether we should do away with Headstart. I don't know anybody who suggests this.

The question is whether we would have a better program if it were under the same supervision and direction and agency that the kindergarten program is, and that the Followthrough program is, and that the first grade program is.

Would it make better sense from an educational standpoint?

Sister BAPTISTA. I really don't know. I am not sure about that. I am sure about one point here though. I think again that the individual choice of a teacher has to be so important.

You might have a poor Headstart teacher, this is perfectly possible, who is playing with children and not teaching them and you may have an excellent kindergarten teacher. You may have an excellent Headstart teacher and poor kindergarten teacher.

I don't know about the salary level.

Mrs. GREEN. Have you been the principal or administrator of a school?

Sister BAPTISTA. No, I am not.

Mrs. GREEN. If you were the principal of a school, and let us say that two teachers were equal, would you assign one teacher 20 youngsters and two aides? Suppose she has equal ability. Then would you assign another teacher 60 youngsters during the day?

Sister BAPTISTA. Of course not. This would not make sense to me.

Mrs. GREEN. With Headstart under two different agencies, this is what is happening.

Sister BAPTISTA. May I ask you this? Aren't the Headstart children from the poverty group, the group which is disadvantaged, and the kindergarten youngsters are all of mixed economic groups. Don't they have to have a line there?

Mrs. GREEN. No. The youngsters could come from the same socioeconomic group. They might have \$200 more income in the family, but they are of the same level and supposedly of the same means.

Some of those youngsters may well have been kids in the Headstart program the year before.

I am sorry, Sister, I appreciate your being here but I am going to have to leave. I will turn it over to my two colleagues to my right.

Mr. QUIE. Let me make a few comments, myself. I appreciate the testimony you have given us this morning, Sister, especially with regard to the area in which you are working. I have been appalled at the lack of research on reading, research into what makes a youngster read.